



ANDREW AND EDA REGINA JOHNSON

Andrew Johnson was born March 15, 1859, in Ockersjon, Sweden. His parents were John Johnson and Elizabeth Pearson. They were converted to the LDS Church and came to America in 1872. They came to Utah, and settled in Heber.

Andrew married Eda Regina Johnson, also a convert from Sweden. She was born in Ulricehamn, Sweden, on September 7, 1861. Her parents were Gustaf and Louise (Jacobson) Johnson. She was seven months old when she came with her parents and sister Sophia, who was 13 years old, to Utah.

Eda's school days were spent in the log house where the First-Sixth Ward Chapel is now. She attended dancing classes in the old Second Ward hall, where Anderson's Store is today. Their school dances were held in the bowery. She was fond of dramatics and because she was a natural mimic, she took part in many plays and gave numerous "recitations."

Eda and Andrew were married on September 26, 1878, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake. They had seven children: Louise (married Louis Coleman), Charles (married Elizabeth Blackley), Ralph (married Luella Cummings), Gustaf (married Angie Young), Porter (married Zenith Spurrier), Arnold (married Nellie Davis, who died, married Delores McDonald), and Dewey (married LaVina Campbell).

When Andrew was a young man he fell from a horse and injured his leg, which crippled him the remainder of his life. But his handicap did not prevent him from becoming an expert carpenter and cabinet maker, and under his supervision many of the prominent buildings of the city were erected, such as the Stake Tabernacle and Amusement Hall, First Ward Church, Seminary, Heber Mercantile and many homes in the valley. For many years he and his son Ralph ran the lumber mill for Mark Jeffs.

He filled three missions for the Church. His first was 1890-92, to the Northern States; the second to Sweden, 1903-05; the third when he was 64 years old and was a short-term mission to the Northern States, October 1925 to April 1926. As all of these missions occurred after he was married, it was necessary for his wife to sacrifice much, remaining home to provide for the family of small children.

Eda was always active in the Church from the time she was 10 years old. She possessed a fine alto voice and always sang in ward and stake choirs, and was chorister in Primary, Relief Society and the Daughters of the Pioneers. She was connected with the Relief Society from the time it was first organized in the East Ward. When her husband was on his first mission the meetings were held in her home, at which time she was assistant secretary. On June 12, 1895, she was called to act as one of the board of directors for a year in the East Ward Relief Society. On March 16, 1883, she was set apart by William Forman as first counselor to Ellen Lee in the Primary Association, and served in that capacity until December, 1893. She was a block teacher until a few years before her death, on May 25, 1944, at the age of 83.

For many years Andrew Johnson was a counselor in the Stake YMMIA, serving with John E. Moulton. He was a Sunday School teacher until ill health forced his retirement, and was very active in the High Priests' Quorum. He was always a devout and faithful member of the Church and although his brothers and sisters apostatized from the Church, he remained steadfast in his beliefs. He died April 7, 1940, at the age of 81.

References:

1. HBUM, pp 403
2. He is not in Pioneers & Prom. Men of Utah

